quested the French side to consider the possibility of assisting India in the setting up of an integrated coal project consisting of an underground mine, a washery and a captive power plant at Ananta (Mahanadi Coalfields Limited) in Orissa.

(b) and (c) The Indian side also proposed to explore the possibility of exporting coal with French assistance. However, buy-back arrangement as such was not discussed.

पठारी क्षेत्रों में कोयले के भण्डार

761. श्री शिव प्रसाद चनपुरिया : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को मध्य प्रदेश में जबलपुर और मंडला जिलों के कुंडल और शाहपुरा विकास खण्डों के पठारी क्षेत्रों में कोयले के भंडारों का पता लगाने की कोई सूचना मिली है ; और

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो क्या सरकार इन क्षेत्रों का एक सर्वेक्षण कराने का विचार रखती है ?

कोयला मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री एस. बी. नयनगौडा) : (क) और (ख) भारतीय भू-सर्वेक्षण, कलकत्ता ने सूचित किया है कि मध्य प्रदेश के जबलपुर और मंडला जिले के कुन्डालैन्ड और शाहपुरा विकास खंड अधिकतर ट्रैप्स से ढका हुआ है और इन क्षेत्रों में कोयले के भण्डार न होने अथवा नीचे की गोडवाना राक्स (चट्टानों) के कोयला-धारी क्षेत्र न होने की सूचना मिली है । अत: भारतीय भू-सर्वेक्षण द्वारा इन क्षेत्रों में कोयले का अन्वेषण किए जाने का कोई कार्यक्रम नहीं है ।

Auction of coal stock at Dankuni coal complex

762. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that recently the Coal India Limited authorities have issued public notification in the press for auctioning the entire coal-stock at Dankuni Coal Complex; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by Coal India Ltd., they have not invited any price bids for auctioning the entire stock of "CIL COKE" of Dankuni Coal Complex. However, they have invited offers from the interested buyers for purchase of the accumulated stocks of "CIL COKE" on unrestricted basis at the price fixed for the product.

Foreign investment in Coal Mining

763. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal Mining would be open to foreign private investment and

(b) if so, whether any offers have been received, so far, and if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) The Government have taken a decision to permit Private Sector participation in Coal mining for captive use. To enable this, a Bill to amend the relevant provisions of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 has been introduced.

Such Private Sector participation would be open to both Indian and foreign investment.

However sueh foreign investment would be regulated under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957.

Offers received in this Ministry so far from foreign investors are:

(1) M/s. Coleman Associates for captive lignite mine for a thermal power station at Barsingsar, Rajasthan.